

Filed for intro on 03/02/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 501
By Sands

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William R. "Bill" Walter
for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. William Walter, who has served with rare acumen and alacrity as the Administrator at Maury Regional Hospital for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter is a graduate of West Virginia University; he received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Psychology in 1963, and followed with a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from the University of Minnesota in 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1965 he completed his Residency at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis; his remarkable talent and skill was recognized and he was named Administrative Assistant at the hospital; and

WHEREAS, subsequently William Walter joined Baroness Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga in 1966; he served with great probity as the Assistant Administrator until 1974, when he was chosen as the Administrator for Maury Regional Hospital (MRH) in Columbia, Tennessee; and

HJR0501

01129285

WHEREAS, he is one of the longest tenured administrators in the state and the fourth administrator at MRH; his dedication to the hospital has resulted in phenomenal changes and improvements during his 26-year tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter's numerous alterations truly transformed the hospital; Board of Trustees Chair Wayman Hickman observed that, "He has led us from a small rural hospital to a regional medical center to a level that is the envy of every administrator in the state"; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Walter's astute guidance, the hospital's employees have increased by over 13,000, recorded births have more than doubled, there are 100 more physicians, and 75% of Maury County residents receive their care at MRH compared to 60% in 1974; and

WHEREAS, other major advancements include expanding from 195 beds to 255 licensed beds and 20 skilled-nursing beds, and in the last 15 years there have been 11 major expansion projects completed, including renovations and expansion in the surgery department, cardiac cath lab and special procedures room, a skilled nursing unit, an employee parking garage, and physician's office buildings; and

WHEREAS, these represent only a few of the many accomplishments during William Walter's administration; he is constantly striving for excellence and stated, "As proud as we are of our present performance, it is the future that dominates our thinking and captures our imagination"; and

WHEREAS, current and future plans are now in progress, some of which include a \$17.2 million three-story expansion, a Women's Services Center, the expansion of the critical care unit, and an expansion of the emergency department; and

WHEREAS, a truly humble man, Mr. Bill Walter yields any credit he receives to his dedicated staff and employees; a colleague stated, "Mr. Walter will try to give everyone credit for the success of Maury Regional Hospital except himself. He'll say it's the board, the

employees and the medical staff. But none of this would have happened without the leadership of Bill Walter”; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work as hospital administrator, Mr. Walter has served on countless committees and boards which include the Tennessee Not-for-Profit Hospital Association, the Tennessee Delegate to the American Hospital Association from 1989-1993, a member of the board of the Tennessee Hospital Association (THA), and as chairman of the THA during the implementation of the TennCare Program in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter was appointed by Governor Don Sundquist to represent hospitals on the Governor’s TennCare Roundtable; he has been on the board of directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee, and he has made numerous presentations to state legislative committees concerning TennCare; and

WHEREAS, he also serves on the Columbia State Foundation Board and Executive Committee, the Leadership Maury Board, the Governor’s Public Health Council, and is an active member of the Columbia Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his exceptional talent and skill, he currently serves as President of the Maury Alliance; the Alliance is a new organization merging the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission of the city and county; and

WHEREAS, he is a devout and valued member of the First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter is most grateful for the love he shares with his wife of 35 years, Linda; he is the proud father of son, Mark, of Columbia, and daughter, Mary Glenn Vreeland, of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud William Walter for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. William R. Walter for 26 outstanding years of service as Administrator at Maury Regional Hospital, and for his service to the state of Tennessee. We extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.